

(21)

MAY - 4 1990

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Wood Preservative Team Meeting

FROM: Spencer L. Duffy *SLD*
Review Manager

TO: Addressees

Selected members of the wood preservative team will meet on Wednesday, May 9, 1990 at 10.00 A.M. in Room 1006D CM#2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the protocols for the up-coming 1990 audit of the Consumer Awareness Program (CAP) and to determine whether or not we need to meet with the American Wood Preservers Association (AWPI) before 1990 audit begins.

Please bring your audit package with you, and come prepared to discuss the above issues.

If you have questions, please contact me at 557-1529.

Addressees:

David Stangel
David Albright
Pat Roberts
Sidney Jackson

November 1987

FWA-0018-87-001

*Hazardous Waste Ground-Water
Task Force
Evaluation of
Southern Wood Piedmont
Augusta, Georgia*



US Environmental Protection Agency

point to the need to remediate most existing outside lots that were landfilled with chromium slag several decades ago, Burke said.

Last May the Whitney Young Jr. School was closed by local officials until it could be determined if the school was contaminated with chromium. Results of air, soil, dust and crystal tests conducted after the school was closed do not show widespread chromium contamination inside the school. In fact, once a clean-up of the elementary school's ventilation system, floors and carpets is completed, the school should be safe for re-occupancy as long as the school follows an active maintenance program while the school is occupied, Daggett and Burke reported.

However, Daggett and Burke said results show the need for immediate action to contain chromium slag in vacant lots outside the school.

"While results of sophisticated tests indicate that the chromium levels inside the school need not cause alarm, they do show that people are tracking chromium particles into the school from outside. In addition, the ventilation system is collecting chromium at its intake vents," said Daggett. "For these reasons, we know that chromium in nearby lots and at other chromium sites throughout Hudson County should be contained."

The remediation effort for the first 48 sites will be funded through the state's Spill Fund and by the responsible parties, Daggett noted. Of the 48 sites, 24 are in Jersey City, 23 are in Kearny and one is in Secaucus. Those efforts may include measures such as sealing or excavating sites.

Industries Inc., successor to Pittsburgh Plate Glass of Pittsburgh, and Allied-Signal Inc., successor to Allied Chemical of Morristown.

"If the companies refuse to cooperate, the state will proceed with public funds to limit access and minimize chromium exposure and will sue them for triple damages," Daggett said.

A public meeting to present options and discuss permanent solutions with Hudson County residents will be held in the fall.

Deputy Health Commissioner Thomas A. Burke stressed the need to act quickly to make the communities safe. "At this moment, children may be playing on dirt or grassy lots contaminated with chromium. This might harm the children, and they might be carrying the material home on their clothes so that others could be harmed. Left uncovered, the chromium can also be transported by air or water, further exposing residents to unnecessary health risks," said Burke.

"Chromium can cause serious health problems ranging from skin lesions to lung, kidney and liver damage. Long term exposure to one form of the material, hexavalent chromium, can cause lung cancer," he said. "We must move quickly to halt the spread of this toxic material."

Daggett stressed that the state is committed to implementing both short and long term solutions to protect the residents' health and the environment to make sure that chromium at these sites does not pose a danger to the community.

State activities have already begun, and test results at one site in Jersey City's Dwight Street neighborhood, The Whitney Young Jr. School,

Over the next year, remedial actions will be completed at 38 additional Jersey City sites, including seven being remediated by Jersey City.

There are 21 remaining known sites in Jersey City, but they do not appear to have surface contamination that poses a health risk to the community. While further containment actions are not required, DEP will continue its assessment of these sites as well as the identification of other potentially contaminated sites, Daggett said.

In implementing the long-term clean up of chromium, DEP will press the three manufacturers to sign administrative consent orders to assume responsibility for permanent solutions. If they do not, DEP will take all appropriate enforcement actions against the companies.

Over the past three years DEP has been conducting a remedial investigation, risk assessment and feasibility study of the chromium sites in Hudson County. The remedial investigation and risk assessment have been completed and are available at the town halls and libraries in Jersey City and Kearny. The feasibility study is scheduled for release this fall. It suggests possible alternatives for long term remediation.

The three responsible manufacturers all extracted chromium from raw ore to manufacture chrome for car bumpers and other products until the 1970s in Hudson County. Two decades earlier, the companies had offered the waste material from the manufacturing process as free landfill. The material was used to fill 107 known sites and possibly more, ranging from small residential lots to multi-acred industrial site parking lots.

ANALYTICAL DATA SUPPORT

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